

IN THE CLAIMS

1-14 (canceled).

15. (new) A method for obtaining an even transverse distribution and propagation of a flowing medium supplied through a conduit, said method comprising deflecting said flowing medium during diverging propagation of said flowing medium along at least one distribution gap having a frictional surface and a first depth, and conveying said flowing medium from said at least one distribution gap to an outlet gap having a second depth, said second depth being greater than said first depth, through a passage having an edge extending substantially transverse to the direction of flow of said flowing medium, said edge being shaped such that the propagation of said flowing medium as it flows within said distribution gap provides a substantially even and parallel flow of said flowing medium along said outlet gap.

16. (new) The method of claim 15 including deflecting said flowing medium by diverging propagation along a plurality of said distribution gaps, each of said plurality of distribution gaps having a different depth.

17. (new) The method of claim 16 wherein said plurality of said distribution gaps has a depth in the range of 8 to 60 mm.

18. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein said second depth is from 1.2 to 4 times said first depth.

19. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one distribution gap includes at least two diverging frictional surfaces interconnected by an edge shaped in the form of a circular arc.

20. (new) The method of claim 15 including conveying said flowing medium so as to propagate said flowing medium in a rectangular cross-sectional shape.

21. (new) The method of claim 15 including redirecting said conveying of said flowing medium in at least one curved section.

22. (new) A distributor for the even transverse distribution and propagation of a flowing medium comprising a distribution housing including a supply conduit for supply of said flowing medium and at least one distribution gap having a frictional surface and a first depth for deflecting said flowing medium during said propagation, said distribution gap having a diverging shape for propagation of said flowing medium, and an outlet gap having a second depth for passage of said flowing medium after passage through said distribution gap, said second depth being greater than said first depth, and said distribution housing further comprising a passage between said distribution gap and said outlet gap, said passage comprising an edge extending substantially transverse to the direction of flow of said flowing medium, said edge being shaped such that the propagation of said flowing medium as it flows within said distribution gap provides a substantially even and parallel flow of said flowing medium along said outlet gap.

23. (new) The distributor according to claim 22 comprising a plurality of said distribution gaps, each of said plurality of distribution gaps having a different depth.

24. (new) The distributor of claim 22 wherein said plurality of distribution gaps has a depth in the range of 8 to 60 mm.

25. (new) The distributor of claim 22 wherein said second depth is from 1.2 to 4 times said first depth.

26. (new) The distributor of claim 22 wherein said at least one distribution gap has a substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape.

27. (new) The distributor of claim 22 wherein said at least one distribution gap comprises at least two diverging

frictional surfaces interconnected by an edge in the shape of a circular arc.

28. (new) The distributor of claim 22 including at least one curved section for redirecting the flow of said flowing medium from said supply conduit to said outlet gap.